

Mottoes from Rose

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Ms. Rose's Latin Phrases & Mottoes

by Rose Williams

Latin Phrases

Culpa est mea	"The fault is mine," Dear Abby's favorite
Senatus populusque Romanus	"The Senate and the Roman people," seen today mostly in Rome on manhole covers, street lampposts, etc., and it can be seen in slides and pictures of Rome
Persona non grata	"A person unwelcome," used in diplomacy
E pluribus unum	"One from many," motto of United States seal seen on money
Lapsus linguae	"A slip of the tongue," sometimes in newspapers.
Esse quam videri	"To be rather than to seem," Sallust said this of Cato; it is also the motto of North Carolina
Condemnant quod non intellegunt	"They condemn because they do not understand," a phrase used to defend almost anything
Sic semper tyrannis	"Thus always to tyrants," the state motto of Virginia
Sic transit gloria mundi	"Thus passes the glory of the world"
Veni, vidi, vici	"I came, I saw, I conquered," the most quoted saying of Caesar
Habeas corpus	"You may (must) have the body."

	a legal term
In hoc signo vinces	"In this sign you will conquer," found on a {gasp} cigarette pack
Quo vadis	"Where are you going?"  Click image to see a larger version
Tempus fugit	"Time flies," a phrase from Virgil
Summum Bonum	"The Greatest Good"
Verbum sat sapienti	"A word to the wise is enough"
Te morituri salutamus	"We who are about to die salute you"
Semper fidelis	"Always faithful," motto of the Marines
Carpe diem	"Seize the day," a phrase from Horace found many places, such as t - shirts 
Status quo	"The State in Which (we are)"
Cui bono	"To whom for a good? (Who got the profit?)," a phrase from Cicero

Quid pro quo	"What for what," a phrase that denotes an exchange
Non sequitur	"It does not follow"
Dum spiro, spero	"While I breathe, I hope"
Per Diem	"By the Day," a phrase used in business
Pro bono publico	"For the public good," a legal case done for free - called probono
Non compos mentis	"Not sound of mind," a legal term
Sui generis	"Of its own kind," unique
Mens conscia recti	"A mind conscious of right"
Caveat Emptor	"Let the buyer beware"
Mens sana in corpore sano	"A sound mind in a sound body"
Nil disputandum de gustibus	"No disputing about tastes"
Sunt lacrimae rerum	"There are tears for things," a phrase from Virgil's <i>Aeneid</i>
Descensus Averno facilis est	"Easy is the descent to Avernus," a phrase from Virgil's <i>Aeneid</i>
Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes	"I fear the Greeks even bearing gifts," a phrase from Virgil's <i>Aeneid</i>
Quod Sum Eris	"I am what you will be," a motto for a gravestone
Sine Qua Non	"Without which nothing," an absolute necessity
Pro Tempore	"For the Time Being," business, protem
Cogito, ergo sum	"I think, therefore I am"
Nihil de nihilo fit	"Nothing comes from nothing," simplified from Lucretius
Pons Asinorum	"The Bridge of Fools," anything that divides the capable from the incapable, e.g., a geometry problem, a type of medieval SAT